



THE NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

We are a Welcoming Congregation.

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

Volume 9, Number 6

January 15,

2008 Coming Sundays

Services at 10 AM

Taking the Pulpit

January 20: Rev. Don Timmerman

February 3: Suzanne Wasilczuk *"Give them hope, not hell."*

February 17: Ernie St. Germaine

"Worship is the central act of the religious community.... The root of the word worship is the Anglo Saxon for worth, and worship is the way we celebrate what we hold worthy."

---Rev. William Sinkford

Adult Religious Education

On alternate Sundays we meet at 10 AM to discuss topics relating religious and ethical issues to current events and considering ideas that contribute to the spirit and meaning of our group.

We have just begun a 24 lecture series entitled **Peoples and Cultures of the World**. The course is an introduction to anthropology with a dynamic speaker. Please plan to join us for this interesting series. Upcoming lectures

are:

January 27: Fieldwork and the Anthropological Method; Nature, Nurture and Human Behavior

February 10: Languages, Dialects and Social Categories; Language and Thought

From the President

At the December Ministerial Association Meeting, the representatives of the member congregations reviewed the inaugural – and apparently the concluding – article in the Lakeland Times Faith and Values column that the association and the Times Editor worked to put into the pages of the newspaper. The intent of the column was to draw attention to the rich diversity of faiths that we have here in the Northwoods and to provide the general public with a look into the perspectives our various faiths provide on the issues that affect our daily lives.

After reading that article, the Publisher decided not to continue the column – in fairness to him – of which he was not aware until it appeared. The reason for his decision: he was concerned that he would then have to open the forum to atheists, agnostics, and Wiccans.

The collective and universal response from the association members' representatives was, "Yeah, so? And what's wrong with that?" I have to wonder if the Publisher knew how closely he came to describing UUs. What we don't know is what pressures he may have been under from advertisers.

The Ministerial Association has invited the Publisher to attend our next meeting and we hope to continue to work with the Lakeland Times to revive the column.

On another note, we received notice from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) that we are the recipients of the Vision of Justice Banner recognizing that between 50% and 74% of NUUF Members are also members of the UUSC.

In peace and love, Alan

News and Announcements

NUUF Dates of Importance

January 21: MLK Day program with Peggy McIntosh

February 9: Women's Friendship Circle

Upcoming Services

Sunday, **February 3**, 2008 – **Give Them Hope, Not Hell.** Suzanne Wasilczuk explores our Unitarian Universalist legacy of hope and asks: Is there hope for us? If so, where might that be?

Special MLK Day Event

On Martin Luther King, Jr Day, January 21st, the Social Justice Committee along with Nicolet College, the Intercultural Leadership Initiative, the Lakeland Area Ministerial Assn., St. Matthias Episcopal Church, the MJ Berner Foundation for Peace and many other community members will sponsor a co-presentation and discussion on "White Privilege and how it affects the relations between Indian and non-Indian Communities." Dr. Peggy McIntosh, Wellesley College and the Honorable Ernie St. Germaine, Lac du Flambeau will co-present and lead the discussion. The event will be held at our Fellowship at 7:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served after the discussion. Please plan to arrive early, as seating may be limited.

Women's Friendship Circle

The Women's Friendship Circle will meet on **February 9th** at 10:45 A.M.

Suzy

Foster will present a program on the "White Deer Herd in Vilas County". Patty Buehler and Joyce Barnes will hostess the potluck luncheon. Questions please call Mary Ann or Suzy.

Ethics Educational Conference sponsored by Ministry Health Care

On Thursday, **February 21** from noon to 1 PM in the Howard Young

Classroom/3 or Eagle River, Auxiliary Hall, there will be an audio conference featuring Dennis J. Tomczyk, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Wisconsin Division of Public Health and an expert panel. The topic will be Ethical Decision-Making in a Disaster. There is no cost. Contact Chaplain Barnes, 356-8735 to register.

Thanks for your Generosity

At the Sunday service on January 6, we collected \$276 for the family who lost a child in the Spangs fire.

At the community dinner on January 15, around eighty people attended. Helpers with food, etc. included Bev Strauss, Paul Braunstein, Betsy Schussler, Mel and Kay Hoff, Joyce Barnes, Elinore Sommerfeld and Joan Hauer. There was lots of good food, with containers provided for leftovers. The girls running club helped set up and made the evening go smoothly.

UUSC Contributions

Don't forget to get your annual contribution to the UUSC to Terry Hoyt immediately.

UUA News

Meadville Lombard Winter Institute, February 8-10, "Can We Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?"

winterinstitute@meadville.edu or 773-256-3000 x 222 (Flyers at the Fellowship.)

WomanSpirit, February 22-24, Deerfield IL, "Dancing on the Threshold of Balance" www.womenandreligion.org

District Assembly in St. Louis Friday April 25 through Sunday April 27.

The highlights of this year's assembly will be conversations, speeches and worship services about taking lessons of the past and using them to shape our religious future.

Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22 - 30, 2008 Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sites, sounds, and especially the people who worked to create

change during this revolutionary time in our country's history.

UUWomen's Connection, June 6-8, Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL.

www.womensconnection.org

General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, June 25-29, 2008

UUWomen's Fall Retreat, November 7-9, Williams Bay WI.

www.womensconnection.org

UU's in the News

UUA advertising to include football programs The *Chicago Tribune* reports on the [UUA's recent advertising and outreach](#) efforts, including an ad scheduled to appear in programs at 13 college football bowl games. (Chicago Tribune - 12.28.07)

If you haven't had a chance to see the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) (UUA)'s new [marketing campaign](#) with ads in [Time Magazine](#) and a series of [videos](#) on the web, then you might want to take a look. The UUA has created this marketing campaign to "get out the good news about Unitarian Universalism" according to UUA President [Bill Sinkford](#).

Unitarian Universalists give \$1.1 million for growth More than 500 congregations take part in Association Sunday.

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/62796.shtml?n>

Faith and politics The Rev. Forrest Church, a minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City and author of *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle over Church and State*, asks: "Is it appropriate to [elect a minister of the gospel as president](#) of the United States?" (beliefnet.com)

Green Tips

From WE Energies: Energy tips for heating:

Purchase an energy efficient furnace. Look for a AFUE rating of 90% or higher.

Maintain the furnace; check your furnace filters monthly.

Use insulation in the attic and walls. Insulate your attic with an R-value of

- 38 for gas-heated homes and 50 for electrically heated homes, and your walls to an R-value of 19.
- Insulate around doors and windows
- Change your thermostat settings. Use 60F at night and when you are gone and 68F when at home. This can save 10% of more on your bill.
- Turn down the thermostat to 40-50F when you will be away for extended periods.
- Use the fireplace sparingly. Fireplaces are very inefficient. Close the flue to eliminate drafts when not in use.

Joys and Concerns

Our condolences go out to Katy Egan-Bruhy whose sister-in-law died a few weeks ago.

Our condolences go out to Joan Hauer whose partner, John Hull, died on December 23.

Our condolences go out to Patty Buehler whose mother died on January 7.
Our condolences go out to Kay Hoff whose father died on January 9.

Our condolences go out to Faye and Lee Calvey whose daughter died January 15.

Milestones

Connie Lefebvre	01-27
Dwight Logan	01-28
Jennifer Sites	02-01
Barbara Beutler	02-03
Myrle Wasko	02-03
Cora Holt	02-04
Mark Bruhy	02-05
Andrea Billings	02-06
Jerry Buerer	02-07
Catherine Parker	02-13

Wenda Sheard	02-13
Jim Rusak	02-14
Kate Egan Bruhy	02-14
Terri and Terry Hoyt	02-14
Ron Reupert	02-16
Claire Polfus	02-17

News From Afar

This past summer the Care Committee gathered information and made a display highlighting activities of many of the young people who have passed through our fellowship during the last several years. Over the next few months we plan to include these stories in the NUUSLETTER. This month we are featuring **Rose Gabert**.

Rose writes...

This year I begin my final year at the University of Chicago. After many changes of heart, I will be completing a degree in International Studies and Pre-medicine. I have very much enjoyed my time at the University of Chicago, where I have been involved in various social justice groups and South Side solidarity organizations. The City of Chicago itself has been an exciting, if hectic, home the past three years. I relish the diversity of the city and feel a certain pride in the culture of the South Side, but I am always homesick for the trees, water and stars, spending far too much time in the parks and by the lake.

My main endeavor outside of classes has been working with the national non-profit Project HEALTH, which works to break the link between poverty and poor health, particularly in the lives of children. This year I worked with Project HEALTH and the University of Chicago hospitals to open a Family Help Desk in the lobby of the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Pediatric Emergency Department. The desk is staffed by undergraduate volunteers who work to connect families to resources such as food stamps, summer camps, child disability support groups and other social support organizations throughout the city. The level of poverty in the South Side of Chicago is shocking to outsiders and devastating to those who live it. I have found this work incredibly meaningful and fulfilling, though more

often than not overwhelming and frustrating as well. If you are interested, you can learn more about Project HEALTH at www.projecthealth.org.

This summer ('07) I will be living in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where I will be conducting field research for my BA Thesis on public health and indigenous populations. I have not yet studied abroad and am thusly brimming with excitement at the prospect. My only fear is of being too distracted by the thrills of the country to actually do research--we'll see how that goes.

Though I came late to the Fellowship, I have always felt a strong sense of welcoming and belonging from this community. Thank you very much for your support. Be well.

Update from Kayla Norris: *About my Life: It's a New Year and OH BOY!! It's a great life I am living! Being away from home and living this experience is doing so much good for me. I feel so much more wise and intelligent. I even have been starting what I call, a hippie lifestyle--such as the song, "Don't Worry, Be Happy". If I'm ever in an all-time low I get through it quicker than I would any other time because in the end I know everything is going to be okay. I've been given this great opportunity and I just feel like, "What the heck, enjoy it Kayla". There is a huge world out there and so many differences and similarities between USA and Venezuela. And I'm seeing those differences as great, beautiful things. When I go home, I still plan on seeing what else is out there in the world. I want to keep traveling. As for my "Don't Worry, Be Happy" outlook on life: when I'm in contact with a friend or my little sister from the states who is down in the dumps or having struggles, they are over silly things. Such as, "This guy who told me he liked me went out with some other girl" or "My friend is moving away for a few months, I don't know what to do without him", I just simply smile. I tell them to just have hope and everything will be okay. I've learned for you to be happy, you have to try at it, and believe it can happen. There are worse things out there, such as what's going on in Kenya right now. People are dying, and some of my American friends don't quite understand. Besides my newly acclaimed lifestyle I've gotten the hang of the Venezuelan lifestyle. From the meals they eat, the people and how they express certain emotions. I have been studying every little thing since day one. Finally, I get it. I am not fluent in Spanish quite yet, but I do understand almost everything they say. It is a great feeling when a friend or family member here speaks,*

not expecting me to understand, and then I reply to them in Spanish...the looks on their faces are great. It makes me feel better about being an exchange student. I don't feel like the odd-one-out.

I am currently touring the country as you are reading this. I leave on January 5th and return on the 29th. I am seeing the biggest waterfall in the world, "Angel Falls". I will be visiting tons of beaches, many cities as well as a part of Brazil. I get the opportunity to snorkel and go rafting. This is the best time of my life.

Closing Thoughts

To Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In His Own Words

All men are caught in an inescapable web of mutuality.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.

Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away at its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort

and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

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The NUUSLetter is published (usually/mostly) monthly. **Next Deadline:**
February 15, 2008. Send submissions to Elinore Sommerfeld, editor, at
esommerf@aol.com or call 385-2407. **For distribution of announcements**
between newsletters or email/address corrections, contact Alan
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